

2001: A SPACE  
ODYSSEY

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

BASED ON  
CONCEPTS FROM THE  
MGM/STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™



HE TOOK THE  
ROAD TO  
CONQUEST-  
AND FOUND  
THE STARS!



"MARAK  
the MERCILESS!"





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN  
AND DRAWN BY

**JACK KIRBY**

INKED  
BY

**MIKE ROYER**

THE MAN'S JOURNEY TO THE STARS CAN BE A LONG TIME  
IN PREPARATION. BEFORE THERE WERE CITIES TO  
SACK AND TOWNS TO BURN... THERE WAS

# MARAK!

BREACH  
THE  
WALL!

KILL  
THE  
ENEMY!!

THIS  
IS  
THE  
MONOLITH!! IT IS  
THERE WHEN THE  
STARS COME TO MAN.  
IT IS THERE WHEN  
MAN REACHES OUT FOR  
THE UNIVERSE...

WE  
FOLLOW  
WHERE  
MARAK  
LEADS!!

LETTERED BY  
MIKE  
ROYER  
COLORED BY  
GEORGE  
ROUSSOS  
CONSULTING  
EDITOR  
ARCHIE  
GOODWIN



IT WILL BE 200,000 YEARS BEFORE WHITE COLUMNS AND GREAT STRUCTURES RISE IN ATHENS, GREECE--BUT SOMETHING LIKE ORGANIZED WARFARE IS ALREADY BEING PRACTICED BY A MAN NAMED MARAK! HE HAS LEARNED THAT MEN CAN BE MANEUVERED BY PRE-ARRANGED PLANNING TO WIPE OUT PRIMITIVE FARMING COMMUNITIES AND TAKE THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR BY FORCE!!!

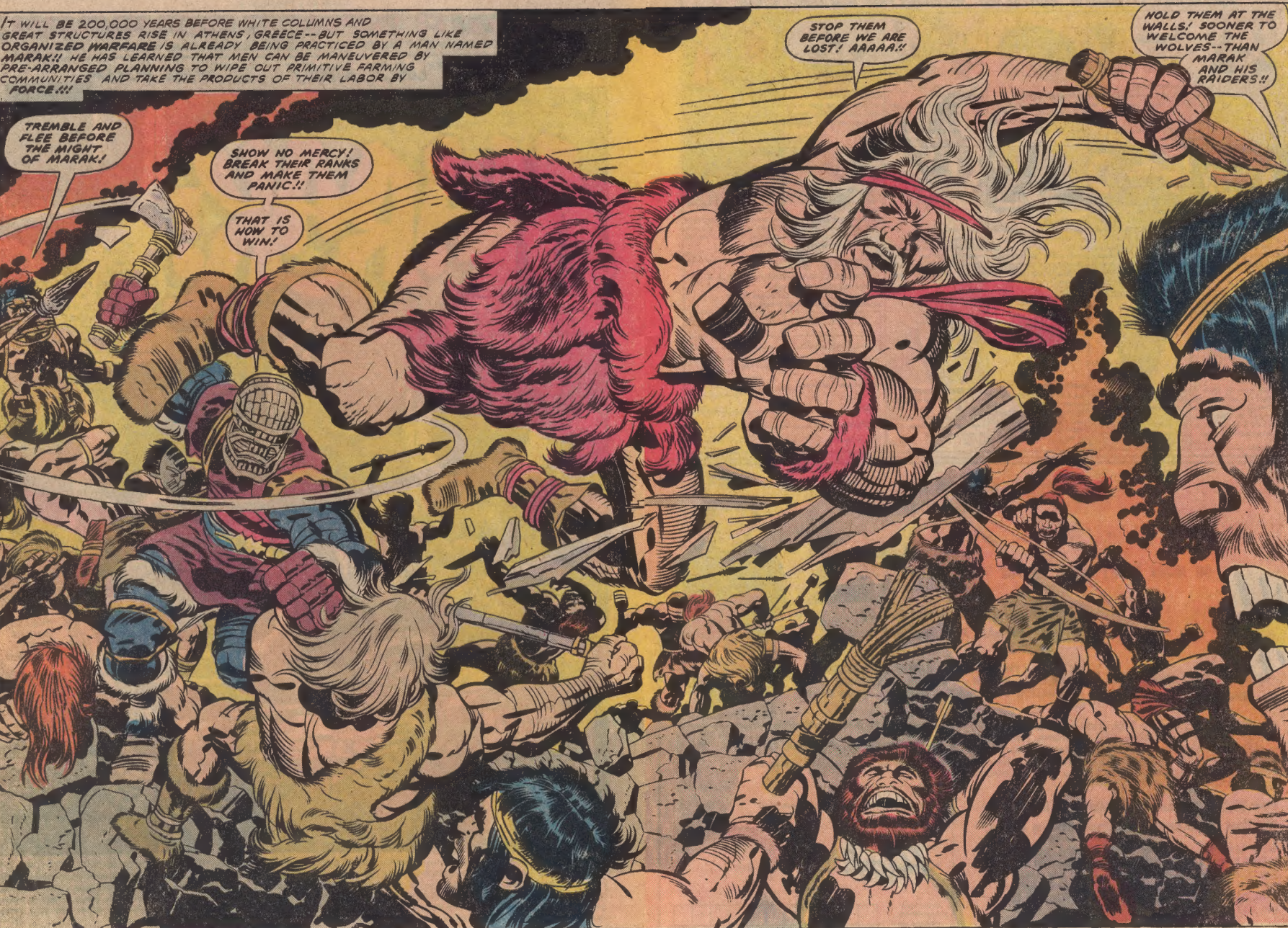
TREMBLE AND FLEE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MARAK!

SHOW NO MERCY! BREAK THEIR RANKS AND MAKE THEM PANIC!!

THAT IS HOW TO WIN!

STOP THEM BEFORE WE ARE LOST! AAAAA!!

HOLD THEM AT THE WALLS! SOONER TO WELCOME THE WOLVES--THAN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS!!





MARAK WILL NOT BE CHRONICLED IN THE HISTORY BOOKS THAT WE READ--BUT, FOR THE AGE HE LIVES IN, HE IS A TRUE MILITARY GENIUS WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO BROADEN THE DOMINION OF HIS TRIBE...

SLAY THEM!

A DEAD ENEMY CANNOT STRIKE BACK!

THE ENEMY BREAKS! HE RUNS! THIS PLACE IS OURS!!

NOT YET! LOOK INTO THE HUTS! FIND THOSE WHO HIDE!!

WE OBEY!

MAKING DECISIONS AND GIVING ORDERS IS A RELATIVELY NEW ART FOR MEN. HOWEVER, THE TIMES ARE CHANGING--AND DESTINY IS CREATING THE BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE ALEXANDERS AND NAPOLEONS...

NOW, TAKE WHAT WE'VE WON!!

TAKE WHAT IS NO LONGER THEIRS!



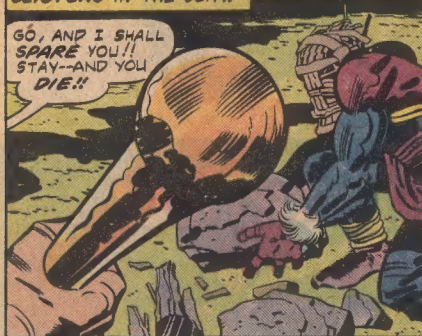
**SUDDENLY, MARAK'S AXE DISINTEGRATES  
IN HIS HANDS!!**



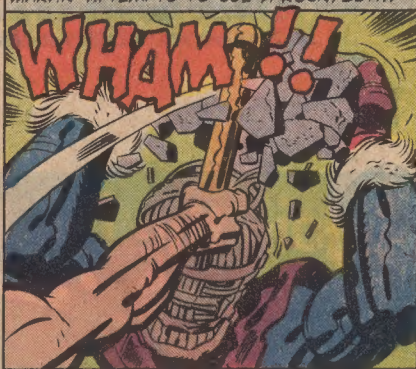
**IN THAT ONE MOMENT, THE BATTLE IS FOR-  
GOTTEN, AS MARAK STARES IN DISMAY  
AT WHAT REMAINS OF HIS WEAPON!**



**MARAK FACES THE ONE WHO HAS DISARMED  
HIM WITH SUCH EASE! HE HOLDS A CLUB  
WHICH LOOKS LIKE SMOOTH STONE AND  
GLISTENS IN THE SUN!!**



**WITH A CAUTIOUS EYE ON HIS ENEMY,  
MARAK ATTEMPTS TO USE A ROCK, BUT...**



**THE ENEMY'S WEAPON SHATTERS THE ROCK  
AND MARAK'S PEACE OF MIND! HE REMOVES  
HIS HELMET OF STOUT BARK. IT IS THE  
UNIVERSAL GESTURE OF TRUCE...**



**THINK WISELY, OLD ONE! YOU  
ARE NOW A LONE SHEEP  
AMONG WOLVES! COUNSEL  
WITH ME, AND I SHALL  
PROTECT YOU FROM THE PACK!**

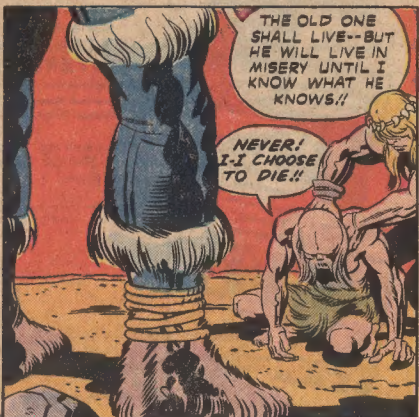
**I WISH TO  
SPEAK ABOUT  
THAT  
WEAPON!**

**STAND WHERE  
YOU ARE--- OR  
ITS SECRET SHALL  
LIE BURIED IN  
YOUR SKULL!!**



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE









THIS ONE IS RARE  
AND STRANGE!!

COME! BE ONE OF  
US! I SHALL BE YOUR  
LEADER! I SHALL  
PROTECT YOU WITH  
WEAPONS-- MADE LIKE  
THIS!

YOU LIE!  
YOU KILL!

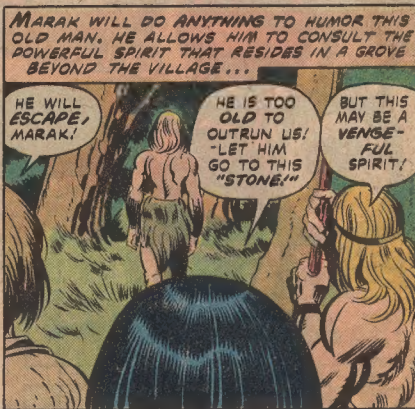
THE OLD ONE LOOKS DEEPLY INTO MARAK'S  
EYES. HE SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT THIS  
FOE IS NO MERE BESTIAL MARAUDER.  
THERE IS AN ACTIVE BRAIN AT WORK IN  
THAT RUGGED SKULL.



THIS WAS A BAD  
WAY TO MEET,  
OLD ONE-- BUT  
MET WE HAVE!

YOU AND I CAN  
HELP EACH OTHER  
DO THINGS OF  
WONDER!

ONLY THE "STONE THAT  
TALKS" WOULD KNOW THAT!  
THE STONE ITSELF CAN  
DECIDE WHAT THIS MEANS!!

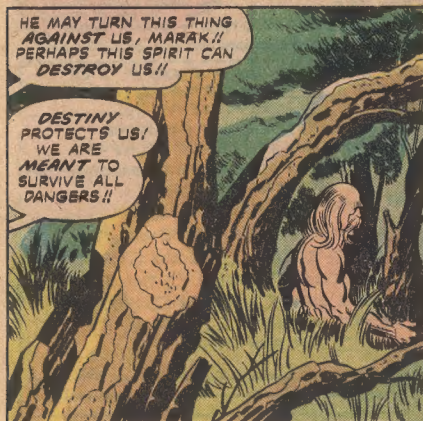


MARAK WILL DO ANYTHING TO HUMOR THIS  
OLD MAN. HE ALLOWS HIM TO CONSULT THE  
POWERFUL SPIRIT THAT RESIDES IN A GROVE  
BEYOND THE VILLAGE...

HE WILL  
ESCAPE,  
MARAK!

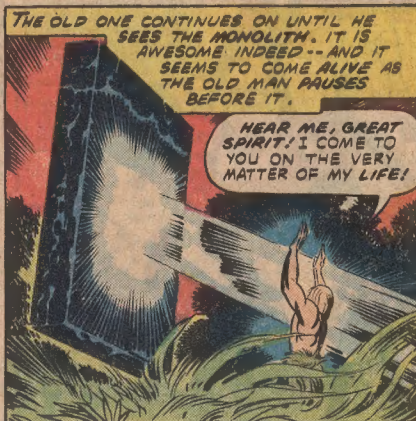
HE IS TOO  
OLD TO  
OUTRUN US!  
-LET HIM  
GO TO THIS  
"STONE!"

BUT THIS  
MAY BE A  
VENGE-  
FUL  
SPIRIT!



HE MAY TURN THIS THING  
AGAINST US, MARAK!!  
PERHAPS THIS SPIRIT CAN  
DESTROY US!!

DESTINY  
PROTECTS US!  
WE ARE  
MEANT TO  
SURVIVE ALL  
DANGERS!!

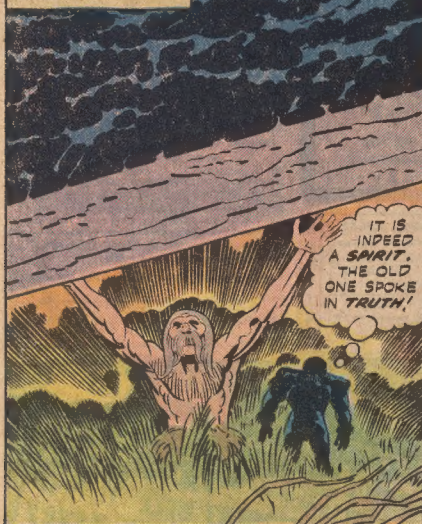


THE OLD ONE CONTINUES ON UNTIL HE  
SEES THE MONOLITH. IT IS  
AWESOME INDEED-- AND IT  
SEEMS TO COME ALIVE AS  
THE OLD MAN PAUSES  
BEFORE IT.

HEAR ME, GREAT  
SPIRIT! I COME TO  
YOU ON THE VERY  
MATTER OF MY LIFE!



FROM THE MONOLITH EMANATES A SOUND STRANGE TO ALL EARTHLY CREATURES... IT IS A SOUND HEARD AMONG THE STARS... YET IT REACHES OUT TO THIS OLD MAN -- AND ENGULFS HIM!



IT IS INDEED A SPIRIT. THE OLD ONE SPOKE IN TRUTH!

MARAK HAS FOLLOWED AND JOINS THE CONFRONTATION WITH THIS ALIEN PRESENCE. HE IS FILLED WITH SURPRISE AND CONFUSION... BUT NOT WITH FEAR!



YOU--!

SOMEHOW, HIS DOGGED SENSE OF DESTINY HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE SIGHT OF THIS MASSIVE STONE THAT HANGS ABOVE GROUND WITHOUT SUPPORT. MARAK TOUCHES IT AND FEELS A STRONG SURGE OF KINSHIP IN THE CONTACT...



THIS SPIRIT RECEIVES US BOTH, OLD ONE. IT IS AN OMEN!

THOSE OF MARAK'S RAIDERS WHO WITNESS THE SCENE FROM A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE MYSTIC PROCEEDINGS. THEY PROBE THEIR OWN THOUGHTS AND HEARTS FOR ITS MEANING...



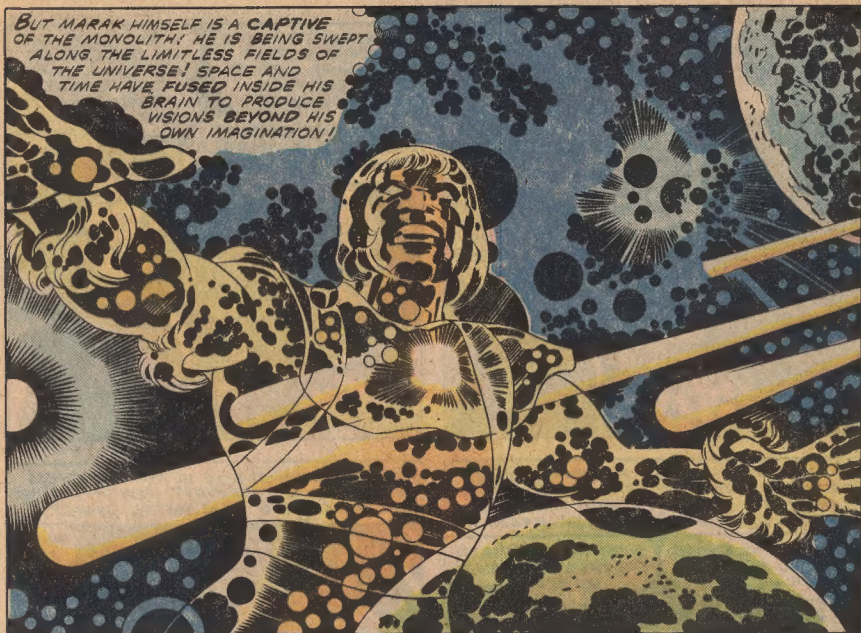
MARAK IS UNHARMED! WHY, EVEN THIS STONE SPIRIT KNOWS HIS COURAGE !!

IF ONE CAN WIN THIS SPIRIT TO OUR SIDE, IT IS MARAK WHO WILL DO IT. THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND HIS POWER!

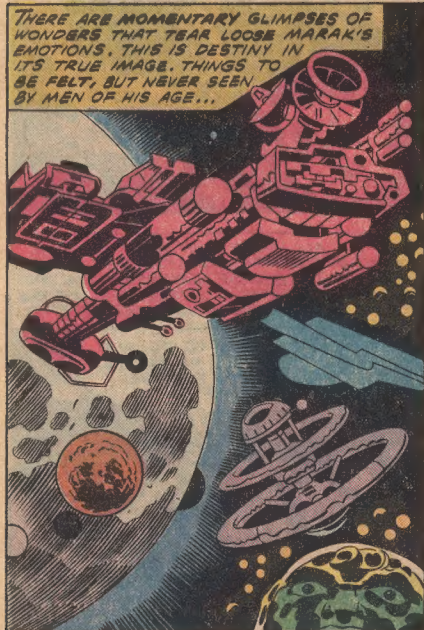
THAT IS SO !!



BUT MARAK HIMSELF IS A CAPTIVE  
OF THE MONOLITH! HE IS BEING SWEEPED  
ALONG THE LIMITLESS FIELDS OF  
THE UNIVERSE! SPACE AND  
TIME HAVE FUSED INSIDE HIS  
BRAIN TO PRODUCE  
VISIONS BEYOND HIS  
OWN IMAGINATION!



THERE ARE MOMENTARY GLIMPSES OF  
WONDERS THAT TEAR LOOSE MARAK'S  
EMOTIONS. THIS IS DESTINY IN  
ITS TRUE IMAGE. THINGS TO  
BE FELT, BUT NEVER SEEN  
BY MEN OF HIS AGE...



BEFORE THESE VISIONS LEAVE HIM, MARAK  
EXPERIENCES A BRIGHT INNER FLASH! IT  
REVEALS THE FACE OF A FEMALE--BOTH  
BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG--THE FACE OF  
DESTINY--WITHIN HIS REACH...



MEET ME AT YOUR  
PERIL, MARAK! MEET  
ME IF YOU DARE!



THEN, AS ABRUPTLY AS IT HAD ILLUMINATED HIS MIND, THE WOMAN'S FACE VANISHES AND REALITY RETURNS. MARAK CONFRONTS ONLY A LARGE, MIRACULOUS STONE--AND HIS OWN DESTINY!



THE SPIRIT HAS SPOKEN TO YOU! IT HAS SHOWN YOU STRANGE THINGS!

IT HAS SHOWN ME THINGS THAT I CANNOT HAVE--AND THINGS THAT I CAN!

IT HAS SHOWN ME JALESSA!!

JALESSA! 'TIS A NAME WHISPERED IN FEAR AT EVENING FIRES, BY STRANGERS FROM DISTANT LANDS!

IN THIS VISION, SHE HAS CHALLENGED ME! I SHALL HAVE THIS FEMALE! I SHALL TAKE HER AND HER FABLED LAND AS WELL!

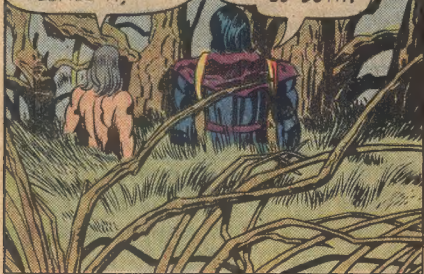
I, TOO, HAVE HEARD OF JALESSA. SHE WIELDS POWER... GREAT POWER!



HAS THE STONE INVOKED A PRIVATE DREAM? OR HAS IT SHOWN THE PATH AHEAD FOR MARAK? AS HE DEPARTS FROM THE MONOLITH, HIS DECISION IS ALREADY MADE...

IF THIS IS YOUR WISH, I SHALL HELP YOU! FULFILL IT!

THEN THE STONE SPIRIT HAS TRULY SPOKEN TO US BOTH!



THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN THE OLD ONE'S HUT. MARAK HAS HIS FIRST VIEW OF A FORGE AND THE SHAPING OF A METAL OBJECT...



CLANG! CLANG!

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, OLD ONE?

I AM KNOWN AS EGEL, THE "THING-MAKER!"

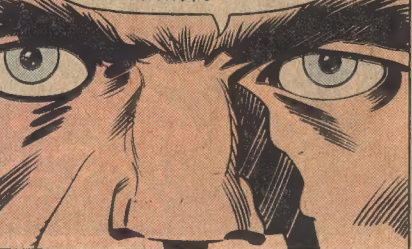
I MAKE WHATEVER IS NEEDED BY THOSE WITH A PROBLEM!

MY NEEDS ARE TOO GREAT. FOR ONE PAIR OF HANDS. I SHALL SEND MY MEN TO YOU. THEY SHALL LEARN YOUR SKILLS AND BUILD MY DREAM!



IT IS AN ALLIANCE THAT WILL EXPLODE IN THE STONE AGE AND SEND MAN HEAD-LONG INTO THE BRONZE AGE! THE GENERAL AND THE MASTER ARTISAN LITTLE REALIZE THE SCOPE OF THE REVOLUTION THEY ARE TO GENERATE.

THERE IS MUCH TO DO, AND MANY DISTANCES TO TRAVEL! THIS IS WORK FOR THE MIGHTY!





SOON AFTER, MARAK BIDS THE RAM'S HORN TO BE BLOWN, AS IT SUMMONS HIS MEN TO BATTLE, SO DOES IT BRING THEM TO HIS SIDE...



THE SOUND ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE CONQUERED VILLAGE -- AND THE MEN RUSH TO ANSWER ITS CALL!



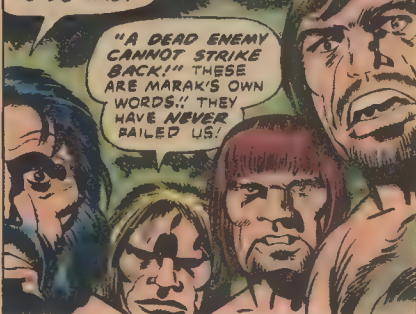
THE RAIDERS GATHER, MARAK'S EYES SWEEP ACROSS THE GROUP. HE SEES A FORCE OF GOOD FIGHTERS, BUT IT IS PITIFULLY SMALL FOR WHAT HE HAS IN MIND...



HEED ME, AND WE SHALL BECOME LIKE A MIGHTY HERD! BEFORE THIS GREAT BATTLE I SPEAK OF IS TO BE FOUGHT, WE SHALL MAKE MANY SMALLER RAIDS.



THIS IS OUR WAY! THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT! MARAK HIMSELF HAS TAUGHT US TO DO THIS!





MARAK GROWS SILENT! THE STEEL RESOLVE IN HIS EYES IS THE ANSWER. THEN, UNDER HIS DIRECTION, A MINE IS DUG, AND CERTAIN ROCKS DESCRIBED BY EGEL ARE PUT ASIDE FOR THE FORGES...

ARE THE STORIES TRUE? CAN EGEL TURN THESE ROCKS INTO A MAGIC SUBSTANCE?

IF MARAK SAYS HE CAN-- THEN HE CAN!



A BAN IS IMPOSED UPON THE KILLING OF HORSES FOR THEIR MEAT. INSTEAD, THE SWIFT CREATURES ARE ROUNDED UP AND KEPT IN PENS FOR FURTHER ORDERS...

THE SPIRITS HAVE STOLEN MARAK'S SENSES!

WHAT DOES HE WISH TO DO WITH THESE BEASTS?!



THERE ARE MANY FORGES NOW-- THERE ARE MANY MIGHTY ARMS BEATING THE DREAMS OF MARAK INTO VISIBLE SHAPE!

**KLANG!**  
**KLANG!**  
**KLANG!**  
**KLANG!**



THE MEN OF MARAK CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EARS WHEN THE ORDER COMES, BUT, AS ALWAYS, THEY GRUMBLE AND OBEY AND FROM A LUDICROUS START THEY BECOME THE VANGUARD OF THE CAVALRY CONCEPT.

I-IT CAN'T BE DONE! THEY WILL NOT BEAR US UPON THEIR BACKS!

THESE ARE DEFIANT, ILL-TEMPERED ANIMALS! THEY'LL BREAK OUR NECKS BEFORE THIS FOLLY ENDS!!







MEANWHILE, NEW RAIDS BRING IN NEW MEN. LIKE THE HORSES, THEY ARE TROUBLESOME IN CAPTIVITY, BUT, FOOD AND CARE BRING THEM INTO MARAK'S FOLD...

GET THE WORK DONE... BUT DO NOT ABUSE THEM!

THEY MAY WELL BE COMRADES-IN-ARMS IN TOMORROW'S BATTLES!

I WOULD TAKE THEIR HEADS NOW!

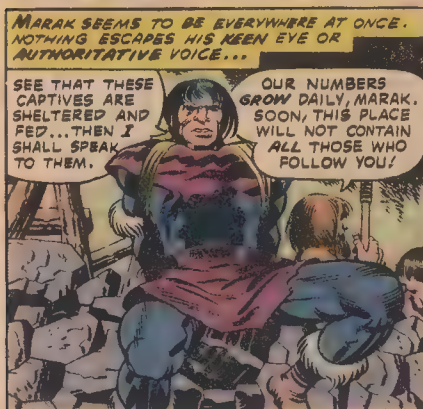
MOVE!  
MOVE!

MOVE ON!

MARAK SEEMS TO BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE. NOTHING ESCAPES HIS KEEN EYE OR AUTHORITATIVE VOICE...

SEE THAT THESE CAPTIVES ARE SHELTERED AND FED... THEN I SHALL SPEAK TO THEM.

OUR NUMBERS GROW DAILY, MARAK. SOON, THIS PLACE WILL NOT CONTAIN ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOU!

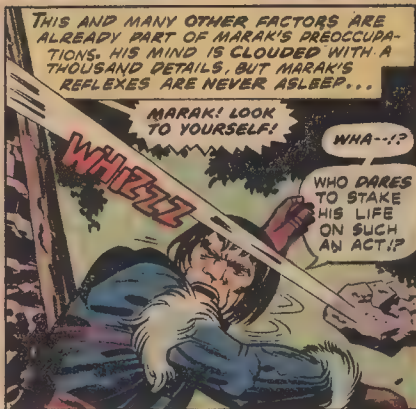


THIS AND MANY OTHER FACTORS ARE ALREADY PART OF MARAK'S PREOCCUPATIONS. HIS MIND IS CLOUDED WITH A THOUSAND DETAILS, BUT MARAK'S REFLEXES ARE NEVER ASLEEP...

MARAK! LOOK TO YOURSELF!

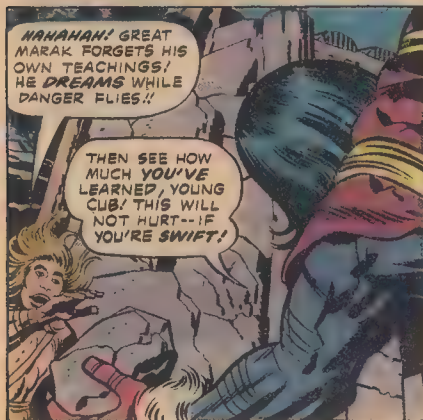
WHA--?!

WHO DARES TO STAKE HIS LIFE ON SUCH AN ACT?



HAHAHAH! GREAT MARAK FORGETS HIS OWN TEACHINGS! HE DREAMS WHILE DANGER FLIES!!

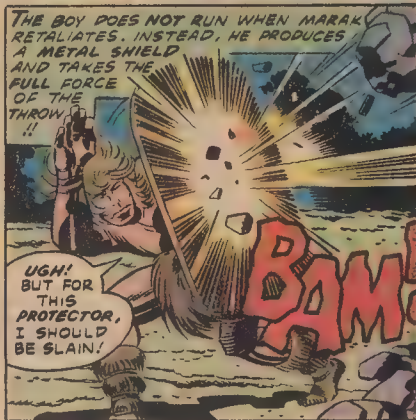
THEN SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE LEARNED, YOUNG CUB! THIS WILL NOT HURT--IF YOU'RE SWIFT!



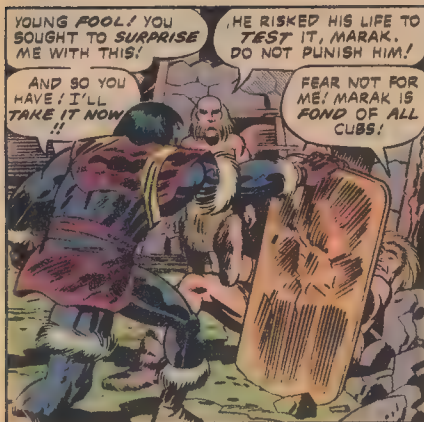
THE BOY DOES NOT RUN WHEN MARAK RETALIATES. INSTEAD, HE PRODUCES A METAL SHIELD AND TAKES THE FULL FORCE OF THE THROW!!

UGH! BUT FOR THIS PROTECTOR, I SHOULD BE SLAIN!

BAM!







YOUNG FOOL! YOU  
BOUGHT TO SURPRISE  
ME WITH THIS!

HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO  
TEST IT, MARAK.  
DO NOT PUNISH HIM!

AND SO YOU  
HAVE! I'LL  
TAKE IT NOW!!

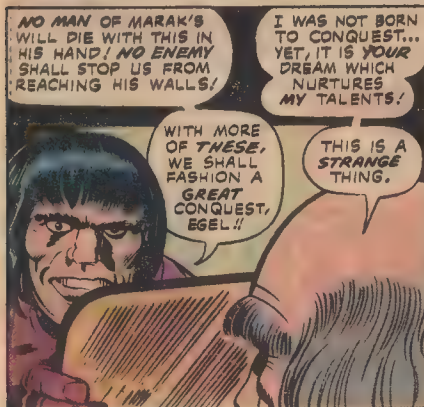
FEAR NOT FOR  
ME! MARAK IS  
FOND OF ALL  
CUBS!



SEIZING THE NEWLY  
MADE SHIELD,  
MARAK FASTENS IT  
TO HIS ARM...

YOUR STRENGTH  
IS KNOWN TO ALL,  
MARAK... YET  
EVEN YOU COULD  
NOT BREAK THIS  
PROTECTOR!

NO ARROW,  
AXE OR SPEAR  
WILL HARM  
THE ONE WHO  
HOLDS THIS!

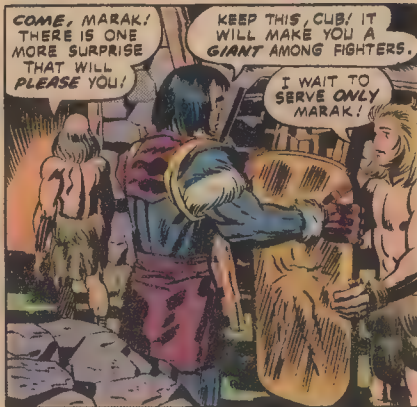


NO MAN OF MARAK'S  
WILL DIE WITH THIS IN  
HIS HAND! NO ENEMY  
SHALL STOP US FROM  
REACHING HIS WALLS!

I WAS NOT BORN  
TO CONQUEST...  
YET, IT IS YOUR  
DREAM WHICH  
NURTURES  
MY TALENTS!

WITH MORE  
OF THESE,  
WE SHALL  
FASHION A  
GREAT  
CONQUEST,  
EGEL!!

THIS IS A  
STRANGE  
THING.



COME, MARAK!  
THERE IS ONE  
MORE SURPRISE  
THAT WILL  
PLEASE YOU!

KEEP THIS, CUB! IT  
WILL MAKE YOU A  
GIANT AMONG FIGHTERS.

I WAIT TO  
SERVE ONLY  
MARAK!



THE MEN GATHER TO SEE WHAT  
FURTHER MIRACLES HAVE SPRUNG  
FROM THE WIZENED BROW OF  
EGEL...

PEHAPS HE WILL  
TURN MARAK INTO AN  
ARMORED LIZARD!

NO! HE SHALL BECOME A  
WINGED LIZARD, MORE  
LIKELY! THEN MARAK  
CAN FLY OVER  
AN ENEMY  
CAMP!

THIS IS NO  
JEST! I-I  
THINK THAT  
OLD BORCERER  
CAN MAKE  
SUCH A THING  
HAPPEN!



WHEN MARAK EMERGES FROM OLD EGEL'S HUT OF WONDERS, HE IS MORE MAGNIFICENT TO BEHOLD THAN EVER BEFORE. MARAK IS A GOD IN LEATHER AND METAL... WITH A FLOWING HORSETAIL CROWN, WHICH IS SYMBOLIC OF THE FORCE HE INTENDS TO BUILD. BUT IN HIS HAND IS THE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IS TO DWARF HIS OWN POWERFUL IMAGE AND WIN HIS PEOPLE THE WORLD OF THE DAWN. THERE ARE NO CHEERS FOR THE BRONZE SWORD -- ITS POTENTIAL IS STILL TOO NEW TO DEFINE!!

THERE ARE GREAT THINGS FOR US TO DO!

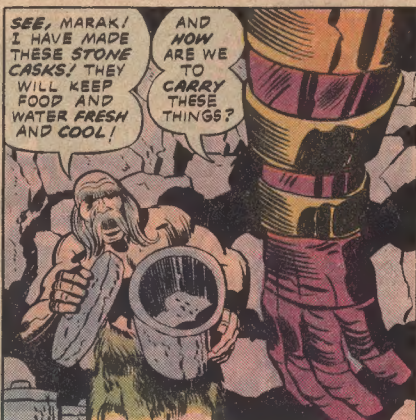
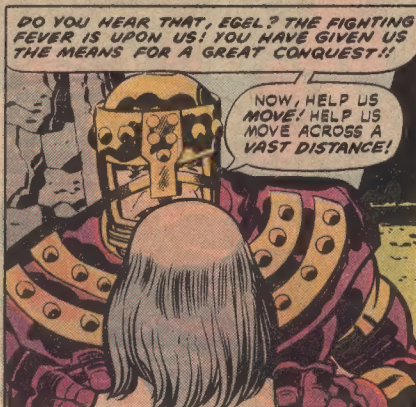
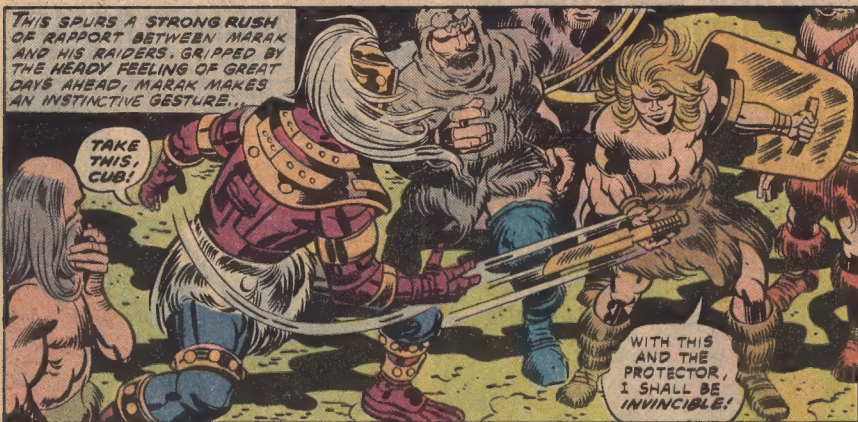
WE SHALL RIDE THE LIGHTNING ACROSS MANY LANDS--

--AND SWEEP THEM CLEAN-- WITH THIS!!





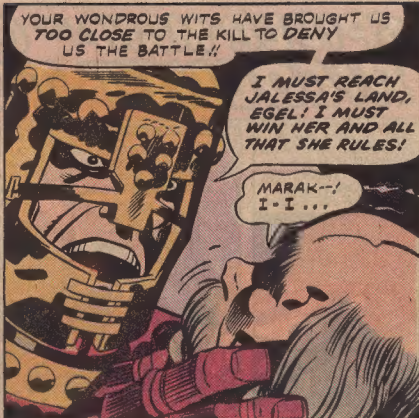
THIS SPURS A STRONG RUSH OF RAPPORT BETWEEN MARAK AND HIS RAIDERS. GRIPPED BY THE HEADY FEELING OF GREAT DAYS AHEAD, MARAK MAKES AN INSTINCTIVE GESTURE...







THESE WILL ONLY  
BREAK THE BACKS OF  
MEN AND BEASTS!  
WE SHALL DIE IN THE  
DESERTS AND PERISH  
AMONG THE VERMIN  
OF THE SCRUB LANDS!



YOUR WONDROUS WITS HAVE BROUGHT US  
TOO CLOSE TO THE KILL TO DENY  
US THE BATTLE!!

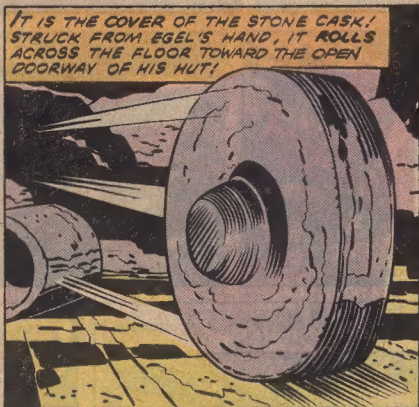
I MUST REACH  
JALESSA'S LAND,  
EGEL! I MUST  
WIN HER AND ALL  
THAT SHE RULES!

MARAK--!  
I-I...



MARAK IS FILLED WITH THE FURY OF  
FRUSTRATION. HIS FINGERS FASTEN  
MERCILESSLY UPON EGEL, BUT THE  
SPINDLY OLD MAN HAS CEASED STRUGGLING.  
HIS ATTENTION HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY  
A SIGHT OF INCREDIBLE PORTENT...

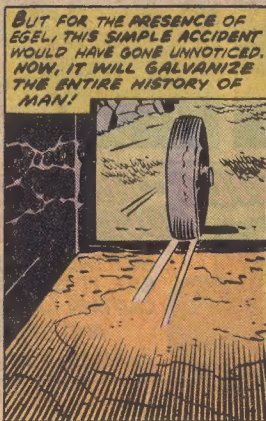
LISTEN TO  
ME, YOU  
OLD FOOL!



IT IS THE COVER OF THE STONE CASK!  
STRUCK FROM EGEL'S HAND, IT ROLLS  
ACROSS THE FLOOR TOWARD THE OPEN  
DOORWAY OF HIS HUT!



THE COVER ROLLS ON--  
SMOOTHLY, SWIFTLY, EFFORT-  
LESSLY--SPANNING DISTANCE  
AND IGNITING FIRES IN OLD  
EGEL'S BRAIN!



BUT FOR THE PRESENCE OF  
EGEL, THIS SIMPLE ACCIDENT  
WOULD HAVE GONE UNNOTICED.  
NOW, IT WILL GALVANIZE  
THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF  
MAN!



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL  
BLAST YOU OUT OF YOUR  
SEAT!!

THE PAST MERGES WITH  
THE FUTURE IN--

**WHEELS  
OF  
DEATH!**

DON'T MISS IT!!



# MONOLITH MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Sirs,

Science Fiction.

First termed so in 1929 by a man named Hugo Gernsback, it still thrives today as one of the most incredible forms of literature.

But science fiction existed far earlier than 1929 or Mr. Gernsback. At least 100 years ago, writers such as Jules Verne told of incredible exploits in the air, under the oceans, or even on the moon.

Now many of the futuristic predictions of his stories are taken-for-granted facts of today.

Many of the pulp magazines which Mr. Gernsback founded still thrive today, 50 years later.

And, of course, the art.

Masters such as Frank Paul, Virgil Finlay, Kelly Freas, and Chesly Bonestell, capturing science fiction on canvas and paper.

Today, I picked up a copy of the 2001 Treasury and found it flawless. Jack Kirby did a job on visual presentation well worth recognition. Now I hear that it will appear as a regular on the Marvel line-up. If the series carries any of the excellence of this book, you have a winner.

With the right producers, science fiction can be one of the most entertaining forms of fantasy.

You have a height of perfection that you are rapidly closing in on. I hope you continue to create stories such as these, and someday in the near future attain this level.

Jim Mullen

P.O. Box 87

Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Dear Sirs,

2001 was about as good as you could make it, I guess, but it was still fairly mediocre. The story lacks the fast pace and the action that generally accompany a good comic-book story. And the medium is hopelessly inadequate to convey the majesty and the beauty that made the movie a classic.

I don't think the monthly series will be any good at all.

Paul Foster

4271 Lake Road

Youngstown, OH 44511

Ah, c'mon, Paul! Give us a chance.

After all, it's not our intention to duplicate the "majesty and the beauty" of the movie. The aim of this book is to use the film as a springboard to all of the fantastic projections of future life and experience that there might be. So hang in there, and see if we can make our fantasy-worlds ring true!

Dear Jack,

I just picked up 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and it's much better than I expected. Since your return to Marvel, your art has been getting better and better. At this point I don't think that even you could improve any more. With just one issue, 2001 is on my list of six top Marvel comics. Keep up the good work.

Mike Weston

35 Tuxedo Drive

Wayne, NJ 07470

Well, thanks, Mike. But you've got us wondering, what are those other five titles?

Dear Jack,

Well, you've done it again. You've created another fantastic new comic. Kirby and science fiction go together like *Starsky and Hutch*. There is no one who can draw-and-write science fiction better than you. Thank you for another "escape from reality."

Gary Tepper

24080 Sherborne Road

Bedford Heights, OH 44146

Dear Jack,

I just read the new Marvel title, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and it raises a few questions in my mind...mostly questions about the future of the title.

Let me look at the book and raise these questions. The story begins with an episode about the transition period of when man evolved from beast, with the tutoring of the Monolith. While of passing interest, will this be a continuing feature of the book? Will we be following "the one who hunts alone" throughout his evolution?

The next episode follows Woodrow Decker's elevation to fetal godhood. Will this evolution be a feature of every issue? Will we see Decker again? How can you continue to have new fetal evolutions if all who undergo such are astronauts? I'm sure that even 2001 A.D. does not have such space travel as an everyday experience.

Will there be any continuing characters? Any feature characters? Any sort of continuing storyline? Any end to 2001 when it temporally reaches 2002?

One major complaint I have about the book is its lack of the absence of verbiage. Kubrick's movie had a strength in it that made it independent of narrative. Jack, you seem to be wanting to make up for that by over-speaking the story. Do you realize that there were only five panels in the book without a wordy caption? And that some captions had more than one? Gack!

I just hope and pray that you keep this title away from the rest of the Marvel characters (I shudder to think of MARVEL TEAM-UP featuring Spider-Man and the Monolith).

Well, until Howard the Duck becomes a Star-Chick...

Berk Enwald

80 Van Cortland Park South

Bronx, NY 10463

Howard? A Star-Chick? No chance, Berk! No chance at all! Now a Star-Duckling...

Seriously, though, the 2001 saga is removed from the regular Marvel continuity line—much in the same manner that our PLANET OF THE APES book is. They simply represent alternate realities.

As to your questions about continuing characters and evolution—well, they were at least partly answered with this issue. No, fetal evolutions are not a requirement of every story. And, yes, characters may well continue from one issue to the next...as witness Marak.

As to the overabundance of captions, we can only say that we'll try to watch it in the future, Mr. E. Okay?



# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

scanned by \*Wizard\*

